



(photo submitted by Anne Holland)

May 28, 2021
Sterling Woods II – Master Association
Monthly Newsletter
Website: www.sterlingwoods2.org

Dear Unit Owners:

We hope you enjoy the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend. Below are some operational highlights and some reminders of our activities here at Sterling Woods II.

THE POOL WILL OPEN ON SATURDAY MAY 29th!

Emergency Board Meeting to Discuss Opening Amenities –

Recently, the Board received updated information from the Connecticut Department of Public Health that aligned with the guidance from the Governor's office easing restrictions as of May 19, 2021. This was one of the major obstacles that stood in the way of opening the pool.

The Board held an emergency meeting on May 27th to discuss opening the amenities. At that meeting, the Board voted to open the pool for the 2021 season beginning tomorrow (May 29th). As in the past, the pool will be open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. The only restriction that is being implemented is that if you enter the clubhouse, and you are not vaccinated, you must wear a mask.

Signs will be posted at the pool and the Connecticut guidelines are attached to this newsletter. All other existing pool rules are in effect and must be followed. The pool rules are attached and are posted in the pool area.

We will not be requiring proof of vaccination – we will rely on the honor system. Standard guest rules will be in force. The logbook needs to be signed by all unit owners and guests. **We will be hiring a pool attendant for the weekends and holidays. Contact Kim Murray if you are interested in the position. She can be reached at (203) 748-0859 or via e-mail at kmurray@reipm.net.**

To get into the pool area, you will have to use the side/lower-level door of the clubhouse which faces Revere Road. Again, per state guidelines, if you are not vaccinated, you must put a mask on when inside the building.

Do not enter the clubhouse through any of the doors on the upper level of the clubhouse. The upstairs of the clubhouse is alarmed and if you open a door on the upper level of the clubhouse, you will set off the alarm. Also, when you are in the clubhouse, you cannot go up the stairs and open the door at the top of the stairs or you will set off the alarm.

For now, the playground, the upper/main level of the clubhouse and the fitness center will remain closed. The Board has approved improving the ventilation and filtration for the clubhouse HVAC system. You will be notified once the board votes to open these other amenities.

Bear Sighting in the Community

A black bear was observed near the 1500 Cypress building and it ran into the wooded area in the vicinity. If you see a black bear in Connecticut, you should report the sighting to the DEEP's Wildlife Division by clicking on the link below. If you need immediate assistance concerning a black bear, you should call the DEEP's 24-hour hotline at 860-424-3333.

<https://www.depdata.ct.gov/wildlife/sighting/bearsight.asp>

Black Rat Snakes



This is a picture of a black rat snake or racer snake.

We wanted to make you aware that black snakes (rat snakes or racer snakes) have been observed in the community. They tend to appear more frequently in the early spring and fall during the day when temperatures are not extreme. In the heat of the summer, they tend to find cooler and darker places to reside. They are very common, nonpoisonous, tend to avoid contact with people and feed mostly on rodents and other small animals. But if startled and/or cornered, they could still bite. Generally, they are just passing through. We wanted you to be aware of this, so you do not get overly frightened if you see one. If the snake is just passing through, there is generally no action the association can take. However, if you believe they have taken up residence or are nesting near your unit please let management know and an effort will be made to remove them.

Please do not throw food outside to feed the wild animals on community grounds (for example - the wild turkeys).

Dryer Vent Cleaning Reminder

We would like to remind all owners that dryer vents should be cleaned out at least once per calendar year. REI does offer this service and can offer a discount. Unit Owners can contact Carl Webster at (203) 744-8400 ext. 131 or via e-mail at cwebster@rei-pm.net for more information regarding this service and the group discounts that are available.



Maintenance Work

The Maintenance Committee has performed their spring inspection of the common grounds and buildings. The list of suggested work will be provided to the Board soon and REI will begin obtaining proposals for the suggested work.



Richie's Roofing has begun replacing the roofs in the Oaks Village.

Power washing and deck staining will begin on Cypress Drive on June 21. The same work will be done on Pinnacle Way and it will commence on or around July 26.



Four new benches are being installed along Silversmith Drive – we hope you enjoy them!

Landscaping Report

The spring shrub inspection was completed the last week of April. The next shrub inspection will be in the fall. Shrub requests should be made no later than August 23rd. Dead shrubs and overgrown shrubs covering windows and gutters are candidates for removals only. Due to budgetary constraints, we can only do a limited number of overgrown shrub removals each season. It is done on a priority basis.

If you would like to be placed on the list for overgrown shrub removals and replacements, please contact Kim M. to be put on the list. **If you have received a newly planted shrub(s), please water them if there is no rain, at least every other day for the first month and then once a week.** In addition, we have a “No Pruning” list. If you wish to be included in this list, please contact Kim M. Pruning takes place in mid to late June.

Our landscapers completed mulching all shrub beds the last week of April. A shrub replacement list was sent to our landscaper and they began replacing shrubs the week of May 24th. Mowing continues on a weekly basis. Weekly trash policing continues. Please make sure no solar lights or any statues are placed on mowing areas or edges of lawns because this impedes mowing.

If you get a newly planted tree, if there is no rain, please water it every day for the first two months. Trees need a good soaking, about 5 gallons of water.

Boxwoods were planted around utility boxes at the following locations - near 2501 Pinnacle, Silversmith Drive - entrance of Hancock and the first entrance of Pinnacle Way. In addition, five white pines and one spruce tree will be removed because they present a safety hazard to houses on Logging Trail Road. Six groups of arborvitae (tree like shrub around utility boxes) on Pinnacle Way, Cypress Drive, Silversmith Drive and Logging Trail will be pruned to maintain their size and shape and improve their appearance.

The following work is scheduled to be done late May/early June - the second of three foliage treatments to designated trees (crabapples, purple plums, and Bradford pears). The first of two needle cast treatments to designated spruce trees to help suppress needle cast disease. The first of four monitor treatments of trees and shrubs, where needed, at the fronts and sides of units/houses for insect & mite pests, diseases and cultural problems that could impact plant health. A prescribed soil

treatment to supply necessary nutrients to designated shrubs at the fronts and sides of the following locations: Hancock Drive, Cypress Drive and Logging Trail Road. All streets are done on a rotation basis every year.

June Board Meeting

If you would like to join the Wednesday, June 16th Sterling Woods Open Session Board meeting at 7:30 PM, which will be held via conference call, you can call (203) 666-8107 and then enter the conference ID number which is 806 824 361#. When you call in, you will be put into a “lobby” and when the meeting is ready to begin you will be “brought” into the meeting.

Please note - you will be muted during the meeting. However, you can listen in. If you have any questions, you would like the Board to answer, you should e-mail your questions to Kim Murray at kmurray@rei-pm.net a week prior to the meeting. Your questions will be addressed at the end of the Open Session Board Meeting. The Board will also give you an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the meeting.

Some routine reminders...

The next holiday that will impact trash pickup is Memorial Day. That week, the pickup will be on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Please remember that you should not curb your dog close to your neighbor’s patio or front grass area. Do not allow your pet to urinate close to other units, on mailbox stations, lampposts or other resident’s flowers and shrubs. All pet owners or attendants are responsible to immediately pick up after their pet and properly dispose of the waste.

If Kim or I can assist you in any way, please let us know. Kim’s hours are approximately 7:30 AM until 2:30 PM. Her email address is kmurray@rei-pm.net and the on-site phone number is (203) 748-0859 or she can be reached at (203) 744-8400, ext. 153. If you have an emergency, call (203) 744-8400 and hit 0.

Sincerely,



Art Stueck
President
REI Property and Asset Management

Attachments

Below are the Swimming Pool Area Rules from the Rules & Regulations (please also take notice of the pool rules posted in the pool area):

ARTICLE XI

Swimming Pool Area

Section 11.1 Pool Usage. During the scheduled pool season, the pool can be used only during the authorized pool hours posted at poolside. The use of this facility is not supervised, and Unit Owners should be aware that their use of same is entirely at their own risk. Individuals under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Pool attendants, when available, do not serve as lifeguards. Pool attendants will assist residents in signing-in, caring for the pool and enforcing the Master and Pool Rules. All residents must sign-in when entering the pool area. Entry and exit to the pool area is only through the clubhouse. All residents must also list the names of all guests.

Section 11.2 Regulations of the Department of Health. All regulations of the Connecticut State Department of Health, and the City of Danbury are included herein by reference. All persons shall bathe with warm water and soap before entering the pool.

Section 11.3 Attire. All persons must wear suitable swimming garments when using the pool facilities. No person shall, in public view of other Association residents or visitors, dress in such a manner as to expose their buttocks, excessive cleavage or genitals. Individuals who normally wear diapers must wear swimsuit diapers in the pool. Rubber pants must be worn over the swimsuit diapers.

Section 11.4 Diseased Persons. Any persons known or suspected of having a communicable disease shall not use the pool.

Section 11.5 Spitting or Blowing Nose. Spitting or blowing the nose in the pool is prohibited.

Section 11.6 Boisterous Play. Jumping or diving into the pool is strictly prohibited due to the shallow depth of the pool. Boisterous splashing, dunking, running, rough-housing, ball throwing or similar activities and behaviors, use of profanity or offensive language is not permitted in the pool or pool area.

Section 11.7 Limitation on Number of Guests. Pool and pool area are intended for the use of Sterling Woods residents and their guests. The number of guests per any Unit Owner, at any time, may not exceed four. Guests must be supervised by a resident 16 years or older. A Unit Owner or Resident must be present for any guest to be permitted to use the pool or other recreational facility.

Section 11.8 Portable Radios, CD's, etc. Radios and musical reproduction devices and similar audio devices are prohibited from the swimming pool area unless they are outfitted with earplugs such that sound is not audible to anyone other than the user(s) of the device.

Section 11.9 Prohibited Items. Pets, food, alcoholic beverages, glassware, electrical appliances, underwater breathing apparatus (except swim masks and snorkels), knives and other dangerous items are prohibited in the pool area. Smoking in the pool area is not allowed.

Section 11.10 Flotation Devices / Toys. Large water toys are prohibited with the following exceptions:

A) Flotation devices such as vests, water wings, life jackets, baby floaters, etc., are allowed when users are supervised by an adult.

B) Flotation devices such as “noodles” are allowed. However, they must be removed from the pool when not in use.

Section 11.11 Pool Safety Equipment. Emergency Safety Equipment shall not be moved except for swimming emergencies.

Section 11.12 Platinum Club Key. The Platinum Club key shall not be loaned to Non-Unit Owners under any circumstances. If you have lost your pool/clubhouse key, you will not be permitted to use the pool until you receive a new key. Cost for a replacement key is \$100.00.

Section 11.13 Additional Rules. Please refer to the rules posted at the swimming pool which are included herein by reference.